

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (Excused), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Late)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, March 5, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, March 11, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Friday, March 22, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Wednesday, March 27, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Wednesday, March 27, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. Karen Toles, County Councilwoman District VII**

- Councilwoman Toles thanked the City Council for inviting her to the meeting.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she would like to come to the meetings as often as the Council could invite her.
- Councilwoman Toles congratulated the Council on the City Center Development.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she wanted to address some of the priorities from the Seat Pleasant Legislative Breakfast.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she will have Major Nader to address the Council with regard to the Public Safety concerns in Seat Pleasant.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that Seat Pleasant will always have her support.
- Councilwoman Toles addressed the concern on the utilities and she stated that she will need a specific concern regarding the request.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she is aware of the work that was completed in Seat Pleasant where they had hit a Water Main Break underground.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that WSSC is a bi-county agency and any issues with them will need to be addressed with the State.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that we have a County Council that is chair person of Environmental matters.

- Councilwoman Toles stated in terms of seeking support on the Blue Line Corridor. She stated that she doesn't ever stop lobbying on behalf of the corridor.
- Councilwoman Toles thanked Mayor Grant for attending the meetings, as your attendance helps.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that they need a theme on the Blue Line so that they will not be competing with each other.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that no one is knocking on the door to provide a theme and how we can bring resources in the City.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that you have the County Council working together.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she would like to know the specific support you will need for the City Center Project.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she will allow Deputy Barksdale to address the concerns with regards to the Seat Pleasant Fire Department. She stated that she feels that we do not need a change in the community.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she believes we need to keep the calls routed to Seat Pleasant Fire Department
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she needed to know what you need done on the Community Development Block Grant. She stated that this is April and the applications are submitted in September.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she needs to know in advance before they are required to vote.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that the way Housing is allocating the monies they are trying to distribute a little bit in every community.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that they are overseeing the funds and she can seek additional funding if needed.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she would be happy to work with Chairwoman Boston regarding the concerns at Seat Pleasant Elementary School.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she would like to thank Major Nader regarding his support. She stated that whenever she is putting legislation forward she always includes Major Nader. She stated that he will address the concerns with regards to the loitering at the businesses.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that Councilmember Kennedy and Councilmember Higgs had attended her meetings with regards to Elder Abuse and the State Attorney's office.

- Major Nader thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to come and speak to the Council.
- Major Nader stated that they have a good relationship with Seat Pleasant Police Department.
- Major Nader stated that they have worked on several establishment and they are holding the businesses accountable by requesting that the install lighting and surveillance cameras
- Major Nader stated that Homicide is down by 47%, rape is down 29%, and overall crime is down by 31.2%
- Major Nader stated they have done work within Seat Pleasant and they have reduced the number of violent crimes outside of the District.
- Major Nader stated that they handle more calls in this County. He stated that the University of Boston is studying the County process with consideration of crime being down.
- Major Nader stated that they had assigned six police officers to Central High School every day. They have assigned officers in Seat Pleasant from 3:00pm-6:00pm
- Mayor Grant asked Major Nader to gather the data with the crimes committed outside of the City's border.
- Mayor Grant stated that he would like to follow-up with a meeting to address the concerns.
- Major Nader stated that they have been working really hard to ensure that information in the press release does not state the wrong location.
- Councilwoman Toles stated the inaccurate information that is being spilled is from the media.
- Councilwoman Toles inquired if Major Nader addressed the specifics parameters in the loitering bill. She stated that the bill allows them to give a warning and the second time they will get a fine of \$500.00
- Major Nader stated that when you have individual loitering outside of business and once the warning has been issued, it is now extended to a 30 day time frame. They can go back the next day and arrest them.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the bill had passed in 2012. Major Nader stated it was passed in 2011.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she attended a liquor board hearing and the owner of the store stated that he did not want a lawyer. Halfway through the hearing he stated that he needed an attorney.

- Councilman Yeargin stated that he wanted to applaud Major Nader on having the police officers on Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway. He thanked him for the speed cameras on the highway.
- Major Nader stated that the camera on Martin Luther King Jr., Highway belongs to Seat Pleasant.
- Councilwoman Toles stated Al Reed is the person you need to speak with in regards to the senior abuse.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she wanted to know if the City has submitted for CDBG funding.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City is on page 96 and we are going after the re-appropriation of funding.
- Deputy Chief Barksdale stated that they are doing a few things to promote safety. They have every station out in the community to ensure that residents have working smoke alarms from 9:00am-3:00pm
- He stated that after every call the crews will inspect to ensure that it is a working smoke alarm in the property. They will install the smoke alarms for free.
- The Chapel Oaks Fire Station is the basic transport and they have five people around the clock at the Capitol Heights Fire Station.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know if there will be any additional support for the Seat Pleasant Fire Station.
- Deputy Chief Barksdale stated that it will be assigned to Seat Pleasant after the new station is built.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know if it was approved in the current budget.
- Deputy Chief Barksdale stated that it is a concern with regards to the entry and exit of the location.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she will continue to work with the Fire Chief to ensure that the City continues to get support.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that the project labor agreement will bring jobs into the County.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that Brandywine will be the first station to provide the training.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she is hoping the next station will be Shady Glen. She stated that the Housing agency must hire residents in Prince George's County for the development of the projects.
- Deputy Chief Barksdale stated that they would like to provide a seven minute response to every call.

- Councilwoman Simms stated that they want Seat Pleasant Fire Station to remain in Seat Pleasant. She stated that we have a lot of old homes that's built with sticks and they will go up in smoke really fast.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that even though the new station will not be in Seat Pleasant they do expect services to be provided.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that when you walk in you must work with what you have without hurting anyone.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that they cannot go back and capture funds that were already spent. She stated that they cannot stop the station from being built, but she will commit to the opportunity to continue to have calls routing to the Seat Pleasant Fire Station.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she understands that the numbers were provided to the City to keep the station going.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are not willing to lose our volunteers from the station.
- Deputy Chief Barksdale stated the Chief Bashoor was committed to funding, but the staffing would not be there.
- Mayor Grant stated that we did not get the numbers and we will be discussing the numbers with him.
- Mayor Grant stated that we want the calls to continue to be provided to Seat Pleasant. He stated that the volunteers were there prior to the Government.
- Councilwoman Toles invited Mayor Grant and Councilwoman Simms to a meeting on May 8, 2013 at 1:00pm.
- Councilwoman Toles stated that we are in this together and we will get through this.
- Councilwoman Toles wanted to know what the Mayors' favorite candy is to ensure that he doesn't act up at her meeting.
- The CDBG hearing is scheduled for April 16, 2013 from 7:00pm-9:00pm
- Councilwoman Toles stated that she is hosting a Community Meeting on April 20, 2013 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at St. Margaret's Church.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City would appreciate Councilwoman Toles support on the Carrington Avenue project in the County Executive budget.
- Council President Porter thanked Councilwoman Toles for coming to the meeting.
- Council President stated that they are pleased with the work she is doing and the Council will invite her out again.

### **3. LEGISLATION**



**3.1. Ordinance O-13-10 FY2012-2013 Budget Amendment for Lobbying Services.** Ordinance O-13-10 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, April 8, 2013 and the first reading was concluded.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that he does not have a report for the Public Session on Monday, April 8, 2013.

##### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated his report was on the information stand.

##### **4.3 Dave McGill, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief McGill was not present for the Public Session on Monday, April 8, 2013.

##### **4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton**

- Mr. Ashton stated his report will be very brief on PY39 and requested that we attend the meeting on April 16, 2013.
- Mr. Ashton thanked Ms. Talbert and Mr. Thompson for the work on the CDBG Grant.
- Mr. Ashton updated the Council on PY39-R, which is the re-appropriation of funds. He stated that he will be putting forth a team which will consist of Ms. Talbert, Mr. Thompson and himself.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know the role of Ms. Talbert. Mr. Ashton stated that Ms. Talbert will be writing the grant.

##### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that his financial report is on the information stand.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he provided the City Council with Financial Statements.

##### **4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Chief Cotillo stated that the police department handled 437 calls in March with arrests and four warrants served.
- Chief Cotillo stated the police department issued 249 traffic citations.
- Chief Cotillo stated that we had a good month with no crimes in the City.
- Chief Cotillo stated that it was a crime on Friday, April 5, 2013 and they captured two of the offenders.

- Chief Cotillo stated they attend Councilwoman Stephenson crime watch meeting last month.
- Chief Cotillo stated that they had spoke with Jerry's regarding the surveillance camera and they have installed them and the crime has decreased.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the Camp Fire Girls will be held in Sykesville this year on April 20, 2013.
- Councilmember Yeargin inquired about the traffic citation written for the month of March. Chief stated that there are various types of citation from moving violations to safety issues.
- Councilwoman Simms asked if some changes were made on the corridor by reducing the speed on Central Avenue.
- Councilmember Higgs wanted to know if the camera was installed on Central Avenue will the funding come into the City. Chief stated that he will speak with Major Nader and how far they have gotten. Chief stated that we may not need to pay.
- Mayor Grant stated that the survey would need to be completed on the City side.
- Councilmember Higgs wanted to know if the Code Enforcer works on the week-ends. Chief stated they do not work on the week-ends only Monday-Friday.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the County is taking a valuable source from the City with the removal of the Fire Department staff.

#### **4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson stated that the Street Sweeper schedule is in effect on Tuesday and Fridays from 9:00am-3:00pm
- Mr. Thompson stated that starting on May 18, 2013 to June 1, 2013 it will be a City Wide Clean-up.

#### **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

- The City of Seat Pleasant did not have any Citizen Comments for the month of April.

#### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **6.1 None**



**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1.** None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 8.1. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 2013, City of Glenarden, 8600 Glenarden Pkwy, Glenarden, MD at 7:00pm
- 8.2. Autism Awareness Conference, Saturday, April, 20, 2013, Seat Pleasant Elementary School at 8:00a.m.
- 8.3. Seat Pleasant FY2014 Budget Public Hearing, Monday, April 22, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.
- 8.4. Ward V Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, from 6:00pm-8:00pm
- 8.5. Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, April 25, 2013, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm
- 8.6. Prince George's County 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beautification Awards Program, Summer Garden Application due by 05/20/13
- 8.7. Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 4, 2013 Opening Ceremony & Parade, Seat Pleasant City Hall at 9:30am
- 8.8. Citywide Clean-up, Ward I & Ward II, Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm
- 8.9. Citywide Clean-up, Ward III & Ward IV, Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm
- 8.10. Citywide Clean-up, Ward V, Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk